

NON-SURFERS

- **PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY**

Boats have been making wakes forever. Consequently, people have been considering how they can keep their distance, use boat lifts, or install riprap forever. Although boat lifts and riprap cost money, they protect the value of your property. Consider your options and the costs and benefits of choosing to protect your property.

- **EDUCATE, UNDERSTAND, AVOID**

Things like surfing and wakeboarding are not going away. Give it a try, or make friends with someone participating in them. It's fun. Understand what they are doing, what they need, and why. If you don't need the part of the channel closest to the middle of the lake, avoid them when you see wake boats around. Share information such as this guidance brochure with others.

LAKE WAUSAU ASSOCIATION

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The Lake Wausau Association does not have any regulatory authority, this is only guidance. Lake Wausau is a flowage, and is constantly changing and evolving. We do not warranty, guarantee, or accept any liability for any information provided within this guidance.

A BRIEF GUIDE TO

WAKESURFING ON LAKE WAUSAU

For Surfers and for Non-Surfers

THE BACKDROP



THE WISCONSIN DNR

Long-standing regulations have said “no wake” within 100 feet of any shoreline or swimmer (200 feet from shoreline for jet skis).



WAKE BOATS AND SPORTS EMERGE

In recent decades, wake sports and wake boats have been among the fastest-growing segments in all of water sports, and technological advances in boat designs and wake size have followed.



WSIA SUGGESTS 200 FEET

The WSIA (Water Sports Industry Association), a supporter of all water sports, recommends that wake boats stay 200 feet offshore (when making a wake).



OPPONENTS WANT 300 FEET

Some of the most vigorous opponents of wake sports and wake boats want regulations mandating wake boats stay 300 feet offshore (when making a wake).

SURFERS

- **SHARE THE SPACE AND BE CONSCIENTIOUS**

You aren't the only one out there, and your actions impact the enjoyment and the property of others.

- **KEEP THE TUNES REASONABLE**

Noise travels on the water, so show some restraint. It's reasonable for your surfer or wakeboarder to want to jam out to their music... Go for it. But you don't need to overdo it and share with everyone else on the water and in the neighborhood more than what's necessary.

- **MIDDLE RUNS WHEN POSSIBLE**

Large modern surf boats seem to produce optimal wakes in water 14-feet or deeper, but that doesn't mean you need to run the middle of the channel where there is 25-feet of depth or more. Stay just a little more toward the middle, 14'-18' of depth. 200 feet from shore is the recommendation, but that's a minimum! You can protect the riparian property owners by staying away, and you can protect your right to surf on Lake Wausau going forward (cont'd)...

...(cont'd) You don't want more regulation than necessary, do you? You can run from the Hwy 29 bridge all the way around the channel without coming within 300 feet of *anyone's* shore, and never have less than 14' of depth. Use it. Whenever possible, stay toward the middle of the lake (NOT the middle of the channel) as much as you can (see map insert).

- **TAKE A DIVE**

You will inevitably come upon a sand bar full of boats with children running around, or a small fishing boat, or another surf boat sitting right on or near the line where you'd like to go in order to maintain your depth while staying away from shore, giving you “no choice” but to throw a massive wake at them. Do everyone a favor, don't do that. Tell your surfer to take a dive, and start a new run back the other direction.

- **EDUCATE AND UNDERSTAND**

Study the bathymetric maps, traffic patterns on the lake, and how your boat performs in different depths and settings. *Learn what you can from others, and share things like this brochure with others.*





Lake Wausau ASSOCIATION

"The purpose of the Lake Wausau Association, Inc. shall be to protect, maintain, and enhance environmental and recreational values on Lake Wausau and its surroundings; to organize and conduct activities intended to maintain or improve the ecology, water quality, fishing, and recreational use of Lake Wausau; to promote, encourage, and represent the collective interests of the members of the Lake Wausau Association; to obtain and provide to its members, information of concern to the riparian property owners, recreational users of and other organizations and public officials; to solicit, receive, and expend funds, conduct fund-raising activities, enter into contracts, and conduct such other activities as are appropriate to the purpose and consistent with the nonprofit status of the Association."

